

Zara's Landscape Artist Study

Learning objective: To analyze and evaluate the composition, color palette, and atmosphere of a landscape painting, and to consider the artist's intent.

Choose a landscape painting to study. Use this template to explore the artistic techniques used. Observe the foreground, middle ground, and background closely before answering the questions. Zara the zebra loves to see patterns in nature—look for these as you write your notes.

Word bank: composition · horizon line · perspective · hue · foreground · atmospheric · texture · vibrant · muted · contrast

1. Composition and Depth: Identify the foreground, middle ground, and background. How has the artist used these elements to create a sense of scale and distance? (3 marks)

2. Color Palette: Describe the primary colors used. Explain why the artist might have chosen these specific hues to create a particular mood or atmosphere. (2 marks)

3. Technique and Texture: Analyze the brushwork. Does the artist use bold, thick strokes or fine, smooth lines? What effect does this have on the overall landscape? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were to add one feature to this landscape to change the season, what would you add and why would it alter the painting's impact? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does this landscape differ from a view of a city or an urban environment? Consider the natural patterns versus man-made shapes. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if: Explain what might happen to the 'mood' of this painting if the artist had chosen to use only shades of grey instead of natural colors? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Extension: Zara challenges you to create a 'Landscape Transformation' sketch. Take the landscape you studied and redraw a small section of it, but change the weather conditions (e.g., from a sunny day to a stormy night). Write a short paragraph justifying how your changes to the lighting and color palette have shifted the emotional tone of the scene.